

Mr. President, this bill will significantly help families to obtain the child support owed to them so they can remain financially self-sufficient. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.●

SENATOR WILLIAM B. SPONG, JR.

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, Bill Spong and I go back a long way. We were the only Democrats elected to the Senate in 1966. Back then, new Senators were expected to be seen and not heard. Bill and I were dutiful—we took the last two seats on the back row of the Democratic side of the Senate floor and swapped afternoons and evenings presiding as Speaker Pro Tempore. In those days they gave Golden Gavel to members who presided over the Senate for more than 100 hours; Bill and I each received one.

Bill Spong was one of the quietest and most thoughtful men ever to serve in the Senate. He brought his considerable experience in law and banking to bear on every issue before the Senate and carefully analyzed each piece of legislation on which he voted. He set an example of what a Senator in a deliberative democracy should be.

The Senate was a different place then. Republicans and Democrats worked closely together in a collegial atmosphere. Though they differed on many issues, a majority of Senators from both parties came together to produce legislation for the good of the Nation. Now the Members of the two parties meet only to ambush one another. In today's climate of partisan warfare, it is hard to find anyone who can match Bill Spong's civility.

Senator Spong made many friends for Virginia in his 6 years of service. He was an outstanding and committed representative of the people of his state. His election loss in 1972 deprived Virginia and the United States of an able and promising Senator. Undoubtedly, Senator Spong would have won reelection and served for many more years had the public confusion and division caused by Vietnam and his seat on the Foreign Relations Committee not placed him in an untenable position.

After leaving the Senate, he served with great distinction as a noted mediator and as Dean of the School of Law at William and Mary. In these capacities, he continued to serve his community.

Bill Spong's death yesterday shocked and saddened us all. It deprives us of a much-needed model of dedication, service, and leadership. Let us all hope that his great qualities will find their incarnation in future servants of the public good.●

NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to comment on an issue which concerns my home State of Michigan and the entire country. It seems as though every year another study is published which

concludes American children are behind other nations of the world in subjects such as math and science. Often, when concern is expressed with such findings a more basic issue is overlooked: literacy.

From the youngest schoolchild to the most senior adult, I believe everyone should be able to read and write. Besides serving as the foundation of education, reading provides new opportunities and expands horizons. Through reading, an individual can visit exotic lands, travel in time, participate in fantastic adventures, and learn of events happening in both their hometown and around the globe. Reading allows a person to soar, with only their imagination to limit them. As the father of three young children, one of my favorite activities is reading a story to my children, or as the older ones now do, read the story to me. Helping a child learn to read is one of the most pleasurable activities I know.

Ensuring America's children are literate is one of the most important goals this Nation should have. Rather than involving the heavy hand of the Federal Government, I believe local governments are in the best position to accomplish this goal. But, I also think the Federal Government has a role in helping to eradicate illiteracy from among the Nation's youth. For this reason, Congress has allocated \$260 million to the Department of Education to disburse to the states for carrying out a child literacy initiative beginning in October 1998.

I strongly believe every child in America should be literate. However, we cannot and must not concern ourselves solely with the young. It is a sad fact that many adults across the country do not possess the ability to read and write. While some individuals have rudimentary skills, many cannot read well enough to fill out a job application. Without these needed skills, advancement in the workplace is almost impossible. Fortunately, Congress is taking strong steps toward remedying this problem. Presently, Federal adult literacy programs have been funded at over \$350 million. Given to States in the form of grants, these funds help provide community-based agencies with the money necessary to reduce and hopefully eliminate illiteracy.

In recognition of the efforts to educate both children and adults, I join in honoring those individuals who dedicate themselves to this noble pursuit. I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my appreciation for their hard work, and encourage my colleagues to demonstrate their support of National Literacy Month.●

PETER KARMANOS, JR.

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Peter Karmanos, Jr., Peter who is being honored on November 4, 1997, by the Detroit B'nai B'rith Foundation with the 1997 Great American Traditions Award.

B'nai B'rith is awarding its highest honor, the Great American Traditions Award, to Peter Karmanos for "... his concern for the sick, for his understanding of the abused, and for the quiet, unassuming way he provides for others."

Peter Karmanos is a name with which many people around the Nation are familiar. Some know him because he is the chairman, CEO, and cofounder of Compuware Corp., which is one of the largest independent software vendors in the world. Peter helped to make a small startup company into Michigan's fifth largest exporter, a company with more than 7,000 employees worldwide. Peter has striven to make Compuware a healthy and friendly place to work, providing a company-subsidized cafeteria, day-care center, and wellness center, as well as racquetball and basketball courts at its world headquarters in Farmington Hills, MI.

Others know of Peter Karmanos because he co-owns the Carolina Hurricanes of the National Hockey League and the Plymouth Whalers of the Ontario Hockey League. Peter's passion for hockey has led him to sponsor youth hockey teams, which have given countless young people the opportunity to play the sport Peter loves so much.

Peter Karmanos has earned a reputation as an outstanding leader in his industry and in the world of sports. But he is perhaps most remarkable for the extraordinary support he has given to efforts to make his community a healthier and safer place. In 1995, Peter made the single largest contribution in Michigan history to fight cancer, donating \$15 million to establish the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, in honor of his first wife. The institute integrated the efforts of the major cancer-fighting organizations in Detroit—the Michigan Cancer Foundation, the Meyer L. Prentis Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Detroit Medical Center, and Wayne State University. Peter and his wife, Debra, have involved Compuware in the nationwide cancer research fundraiser "A Race for the Cure." Debra and Peter also cochaired the first ever major fundraiser for HAVEN, a shelter for abused women.

Mr. President, Peter Karmanos truly exemplifies the spirit of the B'nai B'rith Great American Traditions Award. His corporate citizenship and dedication to improving the lives of others are truly an inspiration. I hope my colleagues will join with me in offering congratulations and best wishes to Peter Karmanos on this important occasion.●

WELFARE TO WORK

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Ottawa County, MI, for moving all, by which I mean a full 100 percent, of its welfare recipients to work. As in so many other things, Ottawa County should be an inspiration to us all as we seek fundamental welfare reform that will end

dependence on government by putting people in real jobs with real futures.

When we debated welfare reform in this Chamber, there were those who said that returning greater welfare policy control to our States and localities would produce only hardship and failure. The naysayers claimed that healthy people on welfare could not or would not take jobs—or that jobs could not be found for them. The naysayers claimed that America's local communities lacked the resources and the compassion to meet the challenge of helping welfare recipients end their dependence on government and work their way into decent jobs and an independent life.

The naysayers claimed it would be cruel to impose work requirements and limit benefits because this would simply hurt the self-esteem of recipients and take food out of the mouths of their children. Compassion, they claimed, dictated the status quo.

Well, Mr. President, Ottawa County has proved the naysayers wrong. The good people of Holland and surrounding communities in Ottawa County have shown what real compassion can do. Real compassion—compassion aimed at helping people rebuild productive, independent lives—works. It has worked in Ottawa County and it can work throughout our country if we will give our States and local communities the freedom they need to put their compassion in action.

Welfare numbers fluctuate and new applications are filed all the time, but Ottawa County last month reached the point where none of its residents was receiving a welfare check without earning some income. How did Ottawa County accomplish this? By expecting more of people. By instituting work requirements. By doing everything necessary to make work available for welfare recipients. And by tapping into the vast reservoir of skill and good will available in our faith-based charities.

Ottawa County is in a particularly good position from which to deal with welfare issues. Its Dutch and German communities are, in the words of one USA Today reporter “infused with conservative values and a strong work ethic.” They have produced a thriving economy with a low unemployment rate. They also have opened their arms to recent immigrants, including a significant number of Asians and Hispanics, and have set about, in a determined manner, to give welfare recipients a chance to work. The rare combination of hard work and generosity we in Michigan have come to expect of the people of Ottawa County once again has produced great results.

County officials have contracted to expand subsidized day care for working and job-seeking mothers. The county also hired a firm to provide 24-hour shuttle buses to take welfare recipients to work. And they hired Kan Du Industries, a local picture-frame manufacturer that also runs vocational programs for the disabled, to provide

training and help in job placement skills. The county has engaged in a truly comprehensive effort to help people become self-supporting.

The State of Michigan also deserves credit for this accomplishment. Through its Project Zero, Michigan has spent more than \$5 million in Ottawa County to provide transportation, mentoring, and day-care services to help welfare recipients get and keep jobs. But this is not just a handout. Those who refuse to comply with work requirements have their welfare checks cut by 25 percent, and face the prospect of losing aid altogether if they do not find work in 3 months.

Mr. President, this policy has worked. It has gotten people off welfare and into jobs. It has changed lives. Particularly effective has been Ottawa County's decision to look to local churches for help. For example, a cover story in USA Today reports on Maria Gonzalez. Miss Gonzalez went through a painful divorce, two out-of-wedlock births, a breakdown, and homelessness, all before she reached the age of 27. Then, according to the newspaper, she “found salvation . . . Through an increasingly common government ally: the church.”

Miss Gonzalez receives assistance from the State. State programs helped her find work and continue to give aid in the form of day care and transportation to and from work. But, as a struggling, working mother of four, she has emotional needs as well. That is why Ottawa County paired her with Jan Tuls, a mentor from Calvary Christian Reformed Church. Miss Gonzalez continues to attend her own Pentecostal Church—no one has tried to change her faith. But the guidance she has received from Jan Tuls makes her believe that Miss Tuls is “more of a mom to me than my own.”

Or take the case of Sylvia Ornelas. Mrs. Ornelas moved herself and her four children to Holland 6 months ago, in the midst of severe marital difficulties. As a front page story in the Washington Post tells the story, Mrs. Ornelas went to the local welfare office. But instead of simply a check, Holland gave her a community of friends and mentors.

Neighbors took her children shopping for school clothes. Executives for a local manufacturer helped her find work. Bob and Mary Ann Baker bought her a used car to get around. Ginny Weerstra helped her find an apartment. Parishioners at Hardewyk Reformed Christian Church took up a collection to get her phone installed, and when her husband reentered her life, Pastor Andrew Gorter provided the couple with marital counselling.

Or take Gloria Garcia. This 27-year old mother of five young children was homeless and jobless when her case-worker asked if she would like to be coupled with mentors from one of the area churches. Miss Garcia agreed, and parishioners at Hardewyk Christian Reformed Church stepped in to help.

Miss Garcia had lost her job because she had missed too many days of work

in caring for her children. Ginny Weerstra, a parishioner at Hardewyk, put a call in to the temporary employment service at which Miss Garcia had worked and asked that she be given a second chance. Now that she had people behind her, willing to sit for her children when necessary, Miss Garcia was rehired, and has been working full time since September. The church also lent Miss Garcia \$2,000—since paid back—for bad debts, and sent a parishioner who is an auto mechanic to help her buy a used car. Parishioners even helped Miss Garcia find an affordable home.

And these are not isolated incidents, Mr. President. Literally hundreds of residents of Ottawa County have been helped off welfare by a community committed to helping them rebuild their lives. A community that has been freed to call on its churches, to implement innovative day care, transportation, and job training and placement programs by our welfare reform legislation. A community that knows that neighbors can do far more to help people in need than a simple check from the government.

The close-knit relationships fostered in communities like Holland, Mr. President, are helping welfare recipients find their way to a better life—to stable jobs, stable homes, and the stable habits needed to keep both together. State-fostered training centers can provide job skills, but it takes a more personal relationship to spur the drive to pull one's life together in the way needed to lead a good, settled life.

It is my hope, Mr. President, that other States will follow Michigan's example in sponsoring programs like Project Zero. The result would be a more stable and prosperous America. It is my hope that we will protect and expand our welfare reforms so that Ottawa County can become an example followed by communities all over the country.

Already today, Ottawa is not the only site involved in Project Zero. Five other sites—Alpena, Menominee, and Midland Counties and Romulus and Tireman in Wayne County all have participated in Project Zero. And all have seen significant progress in getting people off of welfare and into good jobs. Since the program began in July 1996, Mr. President, target cases without income have declined by 62 percent. That is, people receiving cash assistance who are not exempt, for example for health reasons, have been targeted to obtain paying jobs, and 62 percent of them have.

This is the kind of progress we need, Mr. President, to repair the damage done to our local communities by too many years of government programs that fed the bodies but starved the souls of struggling Americans. Tough love—work requirements combined with a determined effort to make work possible—can help thousands upon thousands of Americans as they seek a better life. I hope we all will learn from

the excellent example provided by Otawa County. The care and generosity of her people, the grounding of daily life in faith, and traditional values that are so much a part of this wonderful county should inspire us all to greater efforts.

The naysayers are being proved wrong every day. Americans can and will help one another if only the Federal Government will give back the freedom they need to do so.●

CHILD SOLDIERS

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of the Senate a profoundly disturbing report issued by Human Rights Watch on July 18 about the abduction of children by a heavily armed Ugandan rebel group called the Lord's Resistance Army.

While the precise number of children abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army is unknown, estimates indicate that over the past 2 years, 3 to 5 thousand children have escaped from the rebel group. It is reported that an equal number of abducted children remain in captivity and an unknown number have died.

According to Human Rights Watch, abduction is only the beginning of the extreme violence and degradation faced by these children. Often as young as 8 years old, the children are tortured, raped, and sometimes killed by members of the Lord's Resistance Army. They are forced to take part in combat, serving as front line forces in battles against the Ugandan Army and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army. The children also tell of being made to beat and kill fellow captives who have been apprehended in their efforts to escape. The physical and emotional trauma resulting from such experiences can cause lifelong problems to those children that do survive.

The abduction of children for military purposes not only violates the provisions of common article 3 of the Geneva conventions of 1949, international standards established by protocol II to the Geneva conventions of 1949, and the Convention of the Rights of the Child, it violates the most basic principles of human morality.

It is reported that the camps established by the Ugandan Government to contend with displaced children and their families are extremely inadequate. Crowded conditions and a lack of food and sanitation facilities have resulted in malnutrition, disease, and death among those who have sought refuge in these camps. Trauma counseling centers for children who have escaped from the rebels are sorely in need of basic supplies and qualified staff. Human Rights Watch reports that the children who are told to leave in order to make room for new arrivals often have nowhere to go and no means of support.

Mr. President, the phenomenon of the child soldier is growing not only in Uganda, but around the world. If a

more concerted effort is not made to address the outrageous abuses these children face, Uganda and the rest of the international community will be contending with the consequences far in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO VERMONT EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Vermont Educational Television, or Vermont ETV as it is known, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. The station, which is a member of the Public Broadcasting Service, will begin to celebrate its long track record of success in October. A series of brief clips will be shown throughout the year to take a look back at some of the more memorable moments in its programming.

Vermont ETV understands that learning is a lifelong process. Through community support, this station is able to provide exceptional programming 24 hours a day with something for every age group. Some of my favorite shows are produced locally by Vermont ETV, presenting a unique perspective for issues and events important to people in the region. The station's impeccable selection of shows provides both an entertainment and educational value for all Vermonters.

Of noteworthy importance is their efforts to address the needs of pre-school children through the Ready To Learn and Early Education Initiative. In close cooperation with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as well as the Department of Education, these programs are designed to assist children and prepare them for the challenges they will face in school. Vermont ETV is dedicated to providing children, from a wide array of backgrounds, with the opportunity to start off on equal ground.

Vermont ETV is one of the finest examples of a successful community partnership, with almost 78% of its budget financed through donations from the public. I believe that Vermont ETV sets the standard similar stations in other States should strive to emulate. That is why I have been an active supporter for over 20 years. I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Vermont ETV, its employees as well as its supporters, for many more years of continued success.●

CHARISSE TILLMAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, on October 13, the United States and more than 150 nations will mark the observance of World Food Day. Every year since 1980, World Food Day has been a time to raise awareness of worldwide hunger, and recognize those who have dedicated their lives to help people in need.

Many of the individuals who are fighting the war against hunger do so

through the World Food Program [WFP]. The WFP is the largest international food aid organization in the world. Last year, 45 million people in 84 countries benefited from the 2.2 million tons of food distributed by the WFP.

The southern part of Sudan is an example of a region where the WFP helps alleviate the suffering and illnesses caused by hunger. The situation in the Sudan is extremely desperate and countless children have died due to starvation.

One person who deserves special mention is Charisse Tillman of Culver City, CA. She is an assessment coordinator for the WFP in Sudan. When a village or a community is targeted by the WFP for assistance, Ms. Tillman is one of the first to arrive on the scene. She determines how much food is needed by the community and much it can actually produce. This is extremely important so that WFP does not in any way discourage local agricultural production.

The World Food Program is home to many dedicated people like Charisse Tillman. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring her and all the unselfish humanitarians at the WFP.●

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, America's greatest asset is its people, and what makes the American population unlike any other country's is our diversity. No other nation draws strength from so many different cultures, and the American population is a mosaic of the world's many nationalities. Through time, the traditions from these many nations have become part of our own society, enriching our national culture. But our Nation would not be nearly as strong without the contributions of Americans who are of Hispanic descent. In recognition of these contributions, our Nation is currently celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

Hispanic Heritage Month provides a wonderful opportunity for us to honor the diverse achievements and contributions of Hispanics in this country. I know that in my home State of Connecticut there have been parades and dances to mark this occasion, as well as readings of works by Hispanic authors at public libraries. All of these events give Hispanic-Americans a deeper appreciation for their roots, and make all Americans more aware of the contributions that Hispanics make to our Nation.

Perhaps the easiest way to understand and appreciate the extent to which Hispanics have become entwined in the American landscape would come from reading the newspaper. On the front page, you could read an article about our Secretary of Energy or the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations who are both Hispanic. In the business section you could read an article on the Latino Administrator of the Small Business Administration who released